

ZION NEWS

For the Members, Family and Friends of Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ

Recently, Rev. Sharon Morris, Associate Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, invited congregations to a workshop titled: "" While I do not believe that Zion Blue Mountain fits the 'closure' scenario, the observations she makes about the search environment are important for us to be aware of. Here is an excerpt of her invitation to the workshop.

The only thing that is constant in life is change. That is certainly true in many facets of our lives and especially in the life of the church.

It has been my privilege to work with the churches of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference over the last 5 years in the area of Search & Call. Over these last 5 years several things have become apparent:

1. Whether a church is in the search process or not, our churches are in transition.
2. Good candidates are able to choose where they want to go. It is the candidates' market. At times our churches are taking too long to choose a candidate and by the time they do, the candidate has taken another position.
3. Good pastors who are loved by their congregations as much as the pastor loves them; pastors who are being treated well and compensated; pastors that don't have to battle every fall during budget time over their salary and benefits are staying put. There are congregations in PSEC who treat their pastors well and respect their pastors.
4. Good candidates demand and get good salaries and benefits. So, churches that are "pinching pennies" will lose out on good candidates.
5. Pastors coming into the UCC come to this denomination because of our inclusivity. However, many of PSEC churches are not there yet. Candidates are looking for ONA congregations and they are not interested in going to battle over that issue.
6. There are not enough pastors who want part-time work for all of the churches wanting their own part-time pastor.
7. PSEC congregations want things to stay the same and are afraid of the future which will bring change. Those congregations willing to surrender to the future trusting in God, will be fine; those that don't...
8. Unfortunately, there will be more church closures.

I believe, that these observations notwithstanding, our search process can be a time of moving into a "hopeful future." Zion Blue Mountain is a lively congregation that simply must move deliberately and discerningly into the future. The 'environment' is what it is, so I simply offer her observations as a way of better understanding the "Call" part of this process.

See Ya in Church,
Pastor Jon



MAY 24, 2018

Martha's Circle

1/3 lb. Pulled Pork Sandwich w/ bbq sauce, Baked potato, applesauce and drink

\$8.00

Don't forget the baked goods!

Tickets are on sale in the church office or call 610-488-7361 or from a member of Martha's Circle

VENDOR & CRAFT EVENT	
FREE ADMISSION, Food & Prizes	Sunday June 10 9am - 3pm
Table spaces available	Zion Blue Mtn. UCC Social Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tastefully Simple LuLaRoe Pink Zebra Java Mama And many more
contact Bridgett Snyder 610-568-8899	

The Deacon's Coin Purse:

"Pennies from Heaven" as the saying goes means receiving something unexpected when it's really needed. But we can't take our pennies with us when we go to heaven. So we should use our pennies for something expectantly for the church to use if it is in need. And if you think about it...pennies saved make dollars. We all must pull together as good stewards to help our church meet obligations. Those obligations don't go away during the summer months when less is found in the collection plate. Please add your summer offerings (if you plan on being away) to your spring months envelopes to keep this beacon on the hill shining.

Sincerely Your Deacons,
Sharon, Susan, Missy and Wendy



RUMMAGE SALE!!

Breakfast & Lunch Available

Kitchen proceeds benefit the VBS Program

May 5th, 2018 7AM – 2PM

Fill a Bag for \$7



Bingo Kitchen May 11

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Beth Machmer	Joan Hartman
Sharon Kominsky	Tammy Davis
Amy Yeager	Please sign the sheet
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5-8 pm	Keith Hamm

Hot Pot – Wendy Schutt
Bonnie Herb

Bakers – Amy Yeager
Peg Wagner
Shirley Breininger
Keith Hamm

Are you interested in signing your son or daughter up for Confirmation Class? If you child is entering the 8th grade and would like to explore and develop their faith, ask questions, and consider the meaning and importance of the Christian faith for themselves, then please attend the Confirmation organization meeting on Sunday June 3, 2018 at 10:00 am (Summer worship services are at 9 am)



Where: Zion Blue Mountain
United Church of Christ

Time: 5:45 pm – 6:05 pm (Dinner)
6:05 pm – 8:30 pm (VBS)

When: Sunday, July 22 – Thursday, July 26

Ages: 3 Years – 6th Grade (Fall '18)

PRE-REGISTER TODAY! Call 610-488-7361 or complete and return the registration form to Zion Blue Mountain UCC, PO Box 98, Strausstown, PA 19559.

**Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ
2018 Vacation Bible School Registration Form (Please Print)**

Section 1: Parent's Information

Name:	Address:
Phone #:	Email Address:
Home Church:	Attend Church:

Section 2: Emergency Contact Information

Name #1:	Phone #:
Name #2:	Phone #:

Section 3: VBS Participant Information

Child #1:	Age:	Grade (Fall 2018):
Allergy/Medical or Special Needs Information:		

Child #2:	Age:	Grade (Fall 2018):
Allergy/Medical or Special Needs Information:		

Child #3:	Age:	Grade (Fall 2018):
Allergy/Medical or Special Needs Information:		

*All participants will be photographed for inclusion in a multi-media presentation to be shown at a post-VBS church service.



May BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Cathy Diggan	5/10	Jim Shupp	5/18	Jaylene Leshner
5/3	Amy Breidigan	5/11	Diane Moorhead	5/20	Kenny Grimes
	Sandy Behm		George Carles	5/23	Andrea Gebely
5/4	Grant Miller	5/14	Rachael Kirkhoff	5/24	Bob Kline Jr
	Diane Heflich	5/16	Laura Keener	5/25	Bruce Kramer
5/5	Tom Dodge	5/17	Denice Dodge	5/27	Rita Bentz
5/7	Julie Newhouse		Alexis Deisemann		Morgan Rentschler
5/8	Esther Sweigert	5/18	Jon Schaeffer	5/28	Audrey Kirkhoff
5/10	Brian Binner		Kate Holzman Lenhart		



May ANNIVERSARIES

Walter & Helen Shirey married 59 years on May 2
 Bernie & Ruth Himmelberger married 50 years on May 11
 David & Alice Breidgan married 41 years on May 22
 Jeff & Julie Newhouse married 13 years on May 25
 Bob & Holly Kline married 38 years on May 31
 Randy & Robin Sebastian married 38 years on May 31

Are you graduating? Or do you know a graduate?

We would like to recognize your accomplishments! Please give us the following: Name, Name of school graduating from, degree, date of graduation, plans for the future. Thank you.

Please email your information to lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org or call the church office 610-488-7361 before May 20, 2018



Your change can
change a life

Mary's Shelter provides residential and non-residential services for pregnant women and women with newborns who are in need of a supportive environment because of a lack of suitable housing or favorable family relationships. While caring for women in need, Mary's Shelter prepares mothers with newborns for independent living and a vision of hope for the future.

We are participating in their Baby Bottle Campaign beginning on May 13 (Mother's Day). All you need to do is come to the church and pick up a baby bottle provided to you through Mary's Shelter. Fill the bottle with your loose change for the month and return the bottle to the church before Father's Day. It's that simple. If you fill a bottle and would like another just grab one, we will have plenty.

If you are interested in helping Mary's Shelter check out the bulletin board for their Spring Newsletter.

The money raised by us will receive a 25% match through various local businesses. If you have any questions please speak to Lisa Shupp or Christine Bashore, Co-chairs of the Mission committee.



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RED (ONLY) GERANIUMS FOR SALE

Pick up on June 3rd Pentecost Sunday

\$5 per plant

Name _____

Phone _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Mail your order form and payment to: Zion Blue Mountain UCC, PO Box 98, Strausstown, PA 19559

Food Pantry Item of the Month
Canned Vegetables



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Thursday May 3, 2018

We will open our Sanctuary from 7 am – 7 pm to anyone who would like to stop in for a time of prayer or quiet meditation. There will be a guide for your prayer or if you just need a moment alone with God we welcome you to join us.

**From the Treasurer-
 March Financials**

March	Month	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Receipts	\$23,463	\$72,332	\$81,815
Expenditures	\$28,166	\$76,583	\$88,645
	(\$4703)	(\$4251)	(\$6830)

This summary represents a stabilization of our finances at Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ. It also represents a deficit in our year-to-date ledger, as we would expect right before Easter. So while stewardship and attendance has improved, we can always increase our faithfulness. Thank you for your generous sharing of your time, talent, and treasure.



Zion (Blue Mountain) Church
PO Box 98 (6573 Old Rt. 22)
Strausstown, PA 19559

Staff

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Jon Fogle (Fogleja@comcast.net)

Office Administrator: Lisa Shupp (lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org)

Consistory

Elders: Doris Wagner (President), Anne Binner, Ruth Himmelberger, Cathy Diggan

Deacons: Sharon Eaton, Wendy Schutt, Susan Harbonic, Melissa Miller

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm (Vice President), Brad Faust

Contact Information

Pastor: 484-269-9624

Office Phone: 610-488-7361

Website: www.zionbluemountainucc.org

ZIONEWS is published monthly to keep our congregation and friends informed of current events, ministry opportunities, and other pertinent information. We reserve the right to print any letter or article, unless, in the opinion of the elders, it is unsuitable for the newsletter. We also reserve the right to edit or alter any article for length and content.